

Message Text

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SUBJECT: PRESS MATERIAL

HEREWITH FULL TEXT JAMES RESTON OP/ED PAGE COLUMN WEDNESDAY,
FEBRUARY 27, 1974 NEW YORK TIMES HEADED MR. KISSINGER AND
THE EUROPEANS:

LONDON, FEB. 26 - SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY KISSINGER
STOPPED OFF BRIEFLY IN LONDON ON HIS WAY TO THE MIDDLE EAST.
HE STAYED AT CLARIDGE'S, WITH A MARINE OUTSIDE HIS DOOR ALL
NIGHT; WATCHED PRESIDENT NIXON'S PRESS CONFERENCE ON THE
B.B.C.; TALKED BRIEFLY ON THE PHONE WITH JEREMY THORPE, THE
LIBERAL LEADER; CALLED ON FOREIGN SECRETARY SIR ALEC
DOUGLAS-HOME; HAD LUNCH WITH PRIME MINISTER HEATH, AND
FLEW OFF.

THE BRITISH DON'T QUITE KNOW WHAT TO MAKE OF HENRY.
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HE KEEPS ASKING SUCH AWKWARD QUESTIONS: HOW CAN THE

WESTERN NATIONS GO ON LIKE THIS? HOW CAN THEY ENDURE THE PRESENT RATE OF INFLATION? OR SOLVE THEIR COMMON PROBLEMS WITHOUT COMMON POLICIES? OR EVEN SURVIVE UNLESS THEY WORK TOGETHER?

THIS IRRITATES PRIME MINISTER HEATH, NOT BECAUSE HE THINKS THE QUESTIONS ARE WRONG BUT BECAUSE HE HAS OTHER THINGS ON HIS MIND AND INSISTS THE BRITISH AND THE OTHER

MEMBERS OF THE NATO ALLIANCE ARE MAKING GREATER SACRIFICES FOR THE SECURITY OF EUROPE THAN THE UNITED STATES. THEY ARE, HE SAYS, LAYING OUT MORE OF THEIR LIMITED CAPITAL PROPORTIONATELY FOR THE DEFENSE OF EUROPE THAN THE UNITED STATES, AND CONSTANTLY BEING TOLD THAT THEY SHOULD DO MORE. PRIVATELY, HE IS QUITE SNIPPY ABOUT THIS.

MR. KISSINGER IS ALSO IRRITATED BECAUSE HE WANTS TO TALK TO A UNITED EUROPE WHEN THERE IS NO SUCH THING, BUT WHAT DOES HE EXPECT, MR. HEATH ASKS. EUROPE IS IN THE MIDDLE OF THE MOST DIFFICULT POLITICAL TRANSITION SINCE THE ORGANIZATION OF THE AMERICAN STATES. ON A FEW THINGS IT CAN SPEAK AS ONE, BUT ON MANY THINGS IT SIMPLY CANNOT GET TOGETHER. HE AGREES THIS IS AWKWARD, BUT THINKS HENRY IS IN A BIT OF A HURRY.

THERE IS ANOTHER PROBLEM. ALL THE MAJOR EUROPEAN COUNTRIES NOW HAVE ALMOST AS MANY INTERNAL POLITICAL AND PERSONAL PROBLEM AS THE UNITED STATES. MR. HEATH HAS BEEN FIGHTING FOR HIS POLITICAL LIFE IN THE MIDST OF THE MOST SERIOUS BRITISH ECONOMIC CRISIS SINCE THE LAST WORLD WAR. PRESIDENT POMPIDOU OF FRANCE IS ILL WITH LEUKEMIA. CHANCELLOR WILLY BRANDT OF WEST GERMANY HAS POLITICAL PROBLEMS AT HOME AND EVEN HIS FLIRTATION WITH THE SOVIETS IS NOT GOING TOO WELL.

AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND IT SEEMS TO MR. HEATH A LITTLE HARD FOR THE EUROPEANS TO BE PRESSED FOR ANSWERS TO BIG GLOBAL QUESTIONS WHEN THEY ARE SO PREOCCUPIED WITH THEIR OWN QUESTIONS AT HOME AND WHEN THEY CAN'T SPEAK WITH ONE VOICE IN EUROPE EVEN IF FRANCE WERE TO

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COOPERATE, WHICH IS NOT LIKELY.

ODDLY, IT IS NOT PRESIDENT NIXON BUT SECRETARY KISSINGER WHO SEEMS TO BE BLAMED FOR WASHINGTON'S AGGRESSIVE DIPLOMACY. MR. HEATH MAKES THE POINT THAT HIS RELATIONS WITH MR. NIXON ARE VERY GOOD, THAT HE IS IN CONSTANT COMMUNICATION WITH HIM, THAT HE SPEAKS WITH HIM REGULARLY ON THE TRANS-ATLANTIC PHONE.

MR. HEATH WAS MIFFED ABOUT THE SUDDEN SWITCHES IN AMERICAN POLICY TOWARD CHINA AND ECONOMIC POLICY DURING JOHN CONNALLY'S DAYS AT THE TREASURY, BUT HE NOW INSISTS THAT HE UNDERSTOOD WASHINGTON'S DRAMATIC ACTIONS IN THE LATEST MIDDLE EAST WAR.

STILL, SOMETHING ABOUT MR. KISSINGER'S STYLE RANKLES

HERE. HE ALWAYS SEEMS TO BE RUNNING AROUND IN AREAS LIKE THE MIDDLE EAST THAT ARE VITAL TO EUROPE'S INTERESTS, AND WHILE THE BRITISH KNOW ROUGHLY WHAT HE'S DOING, THEY PROFESS TO BE NEVER QUITE SURE.

THIS IS NOT QUITE FAIR TO MR. KISSINGER. NEITHER BRITAIN NOR THE OTHER MAJOR NATIONS IS IN A POSITION TO BRING ABOUT AN ACCOMMODATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST. MR. HEATH HAS BEEN HELPFUL, ESPECIALLY IN HIS PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS WITH SHEIK YAMANI OF SAUDI ARABIA, IN MAKING THE OIL STATES UNDERSTAND THE DANGEROUS CONSEQUENCES FOR THE INDUSTRIAL AND UNDERDEVELOPED WORLD OF QUADRUPLD OIL PRICES, BUT ONLY THE UNITED STATES HAS SUFFICIENT INFLUENCE WITH ISRAEL TO RECOMMEND THE CONCESSIONS ESSENTIAL TO PEACE IN THAT AREA.

ALSO, MR. KISSINGER HAS MANAGED TO CREATE A TRUSTFUL RELATIONSHIP WITH PRESIDENT SADAT IN EGYPT, AS HE DID WITH CHOU EN-LAI IN CHINA AND THROUGH SADAT IS NOW MAKING SOME PROGRESS TOWARD A COMPROMISE BETWEEN SYRIA AND ISRAEL.

AS MR. KISSINGER SEES IT, THIS HELPS NOT ONLY THE UNITED STATES BUT THE EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, AND EVEN MR. UNCLASSIFIED

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HEATH AGREES THAT CONTINUED TURMOIL IN THE MIDDLE EAST NOT ONLY WEAKENS WESTERN EUROPE, BUT INCREASES THE INFLUENCE OF THE SOVIET UNION.

MR. KISSINGER IS ARGUING THAT IT IS NOT IN THE INTERESTS OF THE OIL-PRODUCING COUNTRIES TO CONTINUE THEIR OIL BOYCOTT TO KEEP RAISING PRICES, OR TO LIMIT PRODUCTION AND KEEP OIL IN THE GROUND.

IN THE SHORT RUN, MR. KISSINGER INSISTS, EUROPEAN STATES MAY GAIN BY MAKING BILATERAL DEALS WITH THE ARAB STATES FOR OIL, BUT IN THE LONG RUN, THIS WILL MERELY KEEP THE PRICE OF OIL HIGH AND HAMPER THE ECONOMIC GROWTH OF BOTH THE INDUSTRIAL AND UNDERDEVELOPED COUNTRIES.

HIS REMEDY, NOT ONLY FOR THE PRESENT OIL CRISIS BUT FOR THE COMING CRISIS IN FOOD AND OTHER RAW MATERIALS, IS FOR THE NATIONS CONCERNED TO WORK OUT COMMON POLICIES FOR CONSERVATION, RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.

MR. KISSINGER UNDERSTANDS THE DIFFICULTY OF

ORGANIZING A EUROPEAN UNION AND ALSO THE PRESENT POLITICAL DIFFICULTIES OF THE MAJOR EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, BUT HE DOES NOT UNDERSTAND THE "PETTY MALEVOLENCE" OF FRENCH POLICY, AND HE DOES NOT THINK THE PRESENT CRISIS IN THE WESTERN WORLD CAN WAIT ON THE SOLUTION OF DOMESTIC PROBLEMS IN THE UNITED STATES, BRITAIN, FRANCE AND GERMANY.

"WE HAVE TO ACT AS BEST WE CAN UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES," HE SAID HERE, AND THERE IS SOME EVIDENCE THAT EVEN HIS BRIEF STOP IN LONDON HELPED REMOVE SOME OF THE SUSPICIONS REGARDING HIS RESTLESS DIPLOMACY. (END TEXT)
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